
THE
PRINCESS OF ZELL.
IN TWO VOLUMES.



SOPHIA of **ZELL** WIFE of King **GEORGE** the **FIRST** .

From a Drawing at Strawberry-hill.

Pub. by S. Harding, 127, Pall Mall, Jan. 1. 1802.

MEMOIRS
OF THE
PRINCESS OF ZELL,

CONSORT TO
KING GEORGE THE FIRST.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

——— “ 'Tis better to be lowly born,
And range with humble livers in content,
Than to be perk'd up in a glitt'ring grief,
And wear a golden sorrow.”

SHAKSPEARE'S HENRY VIII.

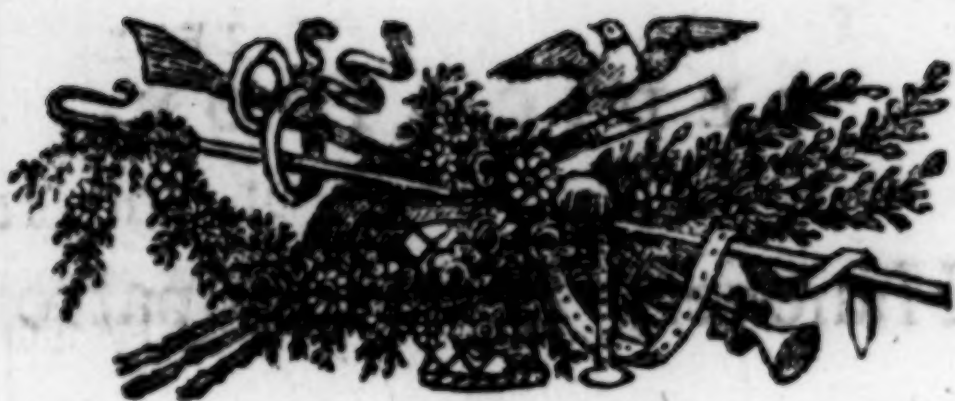
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M.DCC.XCVI.

B  L



T O

HER SERENE HIGHNESS,

THE MARGRAVINE OF

BRANDENBOURG ANSPACH.

MADAM,

TO a Lady allied to the illustrious House of Anspach, and eminently distinguished in the Republic of Letters, the history of the noble consort of the Elector

B

of

of Hanover, sues for patronage and protection.

While I am conscious, Madam, of your discriminating judgment, in distinguishing its errors, permit me to add, that I feel a consolation and encouragement, in the conviction of your liberality and candour.

I am gratefully sensible of your Highness's condescension, in permitting

mitting this Work to carry with
it the sanction of your name, and
beg leave to subscribe myself,

Madam,

Your Serene Highness's

much obliged,

and very obedient servant,

SARAH DRAPER.

Hammer Smith.

TO

TO THE
READER.

THE Manuscript, from which the following sheets have been translated, has been *many years* in the *possession* of the Editor.—It is difficult to say whence that manuscript originated ; whether from a German Publication, *cautiously* printed, and *little* circulated, at the time it was written, or whether the manuscript itself is an original

original paper, written by some person connected with the Court of Zell, and intimately acquainted with the anecdotes therein related.

However this may be, the Editor has, *long since*, rendered it into English, conceiving that it contained many circumstances, not to be found in any of our Historians, and which may be considered as singular by all such persons as are disposed to take an interest in the events of a Court, with which some *High Personages* in this country, who are the objects

of

of national veneration, are so immediately connected.

As the Work itself contains nothing of either *politics* or *party*, it may be proper to observe, at this time, that no allusions are meant to be drawn from it that can, in the smallest degree, relate to occurrences of the present day.— The manuscript itself is evidently of some antiquity ; and the translation (as far as the abilities of the Editor would enable her) a faithful copy of the Work, without addition or comment of any kind.— It perhaps may not be considered as superfluous, to make these observations

Observations at a time when the Public mind is strongly agitated with concerns of a *high domestic nature*.

It may be objected, that there is some matter blended with the main object of the Work, which does not seem immediately connected with it; but, in answer to such objections, the Editor has only to apologize, that she conceived it would destroy the effect of the whole, to separate or abandon any part of it—and therefore gives it to the world in the exact form of the original, trusting to the candour of the Reader for any
indulgence

indulgence it may stand in need of. She submits it, with all due deference, to the Public inspection, acknowledging (as is peculiarly incumbent on her) the very great patronage and countenance she has received from so respectable a number of Subscribers;—assuring them, she shall ever retain a most grateful sense of the obligations they have conferred on her.

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THE
PRINCESS OF ZELL.

IF the favours of fortune were always certain proofs of the merit of those on whom she lavishes them, Germany would, in all probability, have been less surpris'd that the daughter of a French nobleman should become the wife of one of its greatest Princes ;—but as she dispenses her benefits without choice or discernment, the Ger-

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B

mans,

mans, who knew not the virtues of Mademoiselle d'Olbreuse, blamed the Duke of Zell for having preferred, to the Princess of Germany, a young lady, whom chance had brought to his Court, in the suite of the Princess of Tarente, who had retired from France, that she might not be compelled to embrace the Roman Catholic religion, to which Lewis the Fourteenth, then on the throne, was so bigotted, that he would not suffer any other in his dominions.

It was in Holland where the Duke of Zell first saw Mademoiselle d'Olbreuze.—He was at that time in the prime of youth, with an interesting figure ;

figure ; but if the charms of his person highly distinguished him, his mental qualifications, and his numerous accomplishments, created general admiration.

Virtuous, young, and beautiful, as was this lady, her birth alone rendered her inferior to the Duke ; but that consideration did not prevent him from offering her his hand.

Whatever impressions the Duke's merit might have made on the affections of Mademoiselle d'Olbreuse, she was, notwithstanding, the first person to represent to him the impropriety of

encouraging a passion; of which he might have reason to repent.

This discourse, instead of causing the Duke to change his opinion, served only to augment his esteem and tendernefs for her, and strongly persuaded that so accomplished a person would not fail to contribute to the happiness of his people, he determined to marry her—but she did not immediately take the title of Duchess ; for according to the ancient laws of Germany, it is forbidden to any but Princesses by birth, unless by special favour of the Emperor.

It

It was not till some years after her marriage, that Leopold, who then governed the empire, acknowledged her in that quality, against all the intrigues and opposition of Ernest Augustus, Elector of Hanover, and brother to the Duke of Zell, who exerted his utmost endeavours to ward off this blow.

This Prince was doubly irritated against his brother ; on the one hand, he looked upon this alliance, which he had contracted, as a scandal to their house ; and he could not forget the promise he had made him, never to marry ; being the next heir to the Duke of Zell, the children of Made-

moiselle d'Olbreule were excluded, by the Germanic laws, from the succession to the Duchy, as long as their mother should not be declared a Princess.

The Elector had a sensible interest in opposing a measure so prejudicial to himself ; but the Emperor thought he owed this favour to the Duke, in acknowledgment for the assistance this Prince had sent him against the Turks.

The Duchess, being gratified in her ambition, thought only of preserving the affections of her husband, and of contributing to the happiness of his subjects ; the people of Zell, grateful
for

for the kindness of their Sovereign, ceased not to offer up prayers to Heaven, that they might obtain a Prince, heir to so accomplished a Princess—but that was the sole thing ever wanting to the felicity of this people, and the good fortune of the Duchess.—Heaven granting her but one daughter, who was named Sophia, and who proved the most beautiful and unfortunate Princess of her time. The Duke and Duchess neglected nothing in giving her an education suitable to her birth, and they had the satisfaction of seeing all their expectations amply fulfilled.

This Princess was no sooner of age to marry, than her alliance was sought by the greatest Princes in Europe :— The Duke and Duchess were some time without being able to determine their choice ; but at length the Prince of Wolfenbuttle, their neighbour and near relation, gained the preference over his numerous rivals.

Reasons of state retarded, for some time, the conclusion of these nuptials, and this delay was the source of all the misfortunes that attended the life of this Princess.

Ernest Augustus, Elector of Hanover, could not see, without extreme jealousy,

jealousy, the approaching union of his
niece with that Prince, whose father
he ever considered as his enemy, for
having always opposed his ambitious
designs ; and he was the more sensible
of it, having, for a long time, thought
of demanding the Princess for Prince
George his son, and delayed his inten-
tion, in consideration of the Electress,
his wife, who, proud of her birth
(being daughter to the great Frede-
ric, Elector Palatine, and King of Bo-
hemia) had ever regarded the daughter
of the Duchess of Zell as a match un-
worthy her son ; and the Elector,
foreseeing that the alliance which the
Duke intended might be prejudicial
to his lawful pretensions to the Duchy)

knew

knew so well how to represent to the Electress, that the true interest of their house required that Prince George should marry the Princess Sophia;—that he, at last, made her consent to it, and even persuaded her to take charge of the negotiation.

In reality, no person was better qualified than this Princess, to insure its success, as she possessed all the abilities of an able minister in an eminent degree; and although she testified the utmost contempt for the Duchess of Zell, nevertheless, by a strange singularity, she had always preserved a great ascendancy over the mind of the Duke.

The

The departure of the Electress was so hasty, that the Prince of Wolfenbuttle, and the Duke of Zell, could not be informed of it.

It was then in the height of summer; and as Hanover, where the Elector made his residence, was not more than ten German leagues from the city of Zell, the Electress, having set out at the close of the evening, arrived there before sun-rise, and taking pleasure in the idea of surprising the Duke, she was conducted into the Duchess's apartment, where she was told he was, without suffering herself to be announced—the Duke and Duchess were not a little astonished to

find themselves awakened by the Electress of Hanover. This Princess, having seated herself by the Duke's side, made excuses to him in the Teutonic language (which she knew was not understood by the Duchess) for having interrupted their repose at so early an hour ; then entering upon business, she acquainted him with the reason of her visiting Zell, and represented to him that Prince George, being son to the Elector, and consequently *his* direct heir, seemed to have more just pretensions than any other, to the hand of his daughter.

That this alliance, in uniting the fortunes of that lady and Prince
George,

George, would, at the same time, establish that of the Duchess his wife, in case she should have the misfortune to become a widow, since she would have for son-in-law the presumptive heir to the Electorate of Hanover; that even the safety of the people was interested in it, as it might involve them in a dangerous and cruel war, if the King of Bohemia should urge his pretensions to the Duchy, contrary to the just claims of the Prince, her son. In short, she so well understood the art of persuasion, that the Duke engaged himself, without hesitation, to withdraw his word given to the Prince of Wolfenbüttele, and promised his daughter to Prince George.

The

The Duchess was extremely uneasy, on account of the conversation between her consort and the Electress; she naturally concluded it must turn on something they wished to conceal from her, as it was carried on in a language she did not understand;—she could not resist her impatience, and interrupting her husband, she asked the reason of the Electress's visit; but the Duke, who had always placed an unlimited confidence in her, failed in this particular.

The Electress would not do the Duchess the honour to ask her consent, having besought this Prince, from the beginning of her discourse,
that

that he would not inform her of what she was about to propose, till after he had given a decisive answer.

The Duchefs was therefore obliged to conquer her impatience, till the Electrefs had retired ; but what was her surprise, when she was informed of the Duke's new resolution ; she made reflections of the most afflicting nature, on the little respect the Elector and Electrefs had ever shewn her, and which did not give her reason to expect from their son a more favourable treatment.

A secret presentiment, strengthened by the knowledge she had, that Prince
George

George was in love with an Hanoverian lady, made her conclude that this marriage must prove fatal to her daughter.

She used prayers and tears to dissuade the Duke from a design, in which she saw the sacrifice of her child to the interest of the state, and represented to him how much he would lessen himself in the estimation of the people, by violating the word he had given to the Prince of Wolfenbüttele.

But these considerations could not prevail on the Duke of Zell, who preferred the advantage of his subjects to the

the happiness of his daughter, and the reputation of a great Prince, had more charms for him than that of a good father.

The Duchess found him inexorable; and this Prince, who had, till now, always paid an entire deference to her opinion, failed of it, in this instance, though in so delicate a circumstance, and one in which he ought to have consulted her as much for his own repose, as for that of herself and the Princess.

Whilst she was thus regretting the loss of her husband's confidence, the Electress dispatched a courier to the

Electoꝛ, to inform him of the success of her negotiation ; she likewise, at the same time, informed Prince George of it, who immediately set off for Zell, with a heart more sensible to the hopes of succeeding to the Duchy, which this alliance assured him of, than touched with the beauty and elegance of the Princess.

The marriage was celebrated a few days after, with as much pomp as the little time they had to prepare would admit of.—The bride and bridegroom appeared with an eclat which attracted the admiration and applauses of the spectators.

The

The Princess was exquisitely beautiful; her behaviour full of sweetness and modesty; her air noble and majestic; but her charms, heightened as they were by the most splendid ornaments, did not prevent its being remarked, that her heart was not at ease, and that she could not suppress her anxiety, but went to the altar, more from duty than inclination.

Prince George had always an air of coolness and reserve; but it appeared more conspicuous on this occasion, in which his heart, wholly occupied by the charms of another mistress, was indifferent to every thing around him.

The Duke and Duchess saw, with concern, the little sympathy which appeared between the bride and bridegroom; and as they tenderly loved their daughter, they were sensibly affected; so that in this august assembly, the Electress alone seemed satisfied, and congratulated herself on the success of her embassy.

A few days after their marriage, the Prince and Princess accompanied the Electress to Hanover, where the Elector gave them a magnificent reception.

Ambition and gallantry were at this time the soul of the Court of Hanover,

ver, and equally engaged both sexes. The ladies had so great a share in the government, that love was always mixed with business, and they were continually occupied either in pleasures or plots.—It was looked upon as the most brilliant Court of Europe, except that of the Emperor; and it was observed, if there was not so great a number of tributary Princes as were to be seen in the suite of Leopold, there reigned more taste, more politeness, and less licentiousness than at Vienna.

The Elector was affable, kind, and easy of access; his air was noble, grave, and full of sweetness and majesty:

jefty :—The Electress was entirely worthy so great a Prince, and it seemed as if Heaven had only placed her in so exalted a station the better to display the uncommon qualifications with which she was endowed, and there never were seen so many fine talents united in the same person.

Born during the misfortunes of the great Frederic, her father, she had not been brought up in that splendor which so frequently dazzles Princes, and renders them insensible to the woes of others, her own distresses having inspired her with compassion.— She had learnt to sympathize with the
unfortunate,

unfortunate, and was ever ready to alleviate their misery.

She was kind and affable to her inferiors, and civil to her equals, knowing how to maintain her dignity without appearing too tenacious of it.

Fond of reading from her infancy, she had acquired a sufficient knowledge of the Belles Lettres to discourse on them very justly.—She was also mistress of several languages, but especially the Italian, the French, the English, and the German ; and if she did not speak the other languages of Europe with the same fluency, she understood them sufficiently to be able

to answer the natives of those countries.

Among the foreigners who distinguished themselves at Court, Count Kunigsmark (whose father filled an elevated post in Sweden) was, without dispute, the most conspicuous ;—he was then twenty years of age ; he was elegantly formed ; his air noble ; his features regular ; his chestnut-coloured hair, which flowed luxuriantly over his graceful shoulders, conspired to render him the most interesting figure in the Electoral Court.

His understanding, joined to a nobleness of sentiment, was not less
worthy

worthy admiration than his person.—
He had been brought up with the
young Princess at the Court of Zell;
where that sympathy, which acknow-
ledges not the laws of reason, had
created in their young hearts a reci-
procal friendship, from their earliest
infancy.

The Princess saw Kunigsmark with
pleasure, at the Court of Hanover;—
and, as she was yet a stranger there,
and knew no one in whom she could
place a confidence; she wished, from
that time, the Elector would detain
him in his service, in order that she
might have in him a person on whose
fidelity she could depend, not doubt-
ing

ing but this young nobleman, in whom she had always discovered a respectful attention, would take a pleasure in attaching himself to her interest.

If the beautiful Princess was desirous that Kunigsmark should remain at Court, the natural inclination, which attached him to her, made him as ardently desire it.—He then disguised from himself, under the mask of friendship, a passion, which, at the last, notwithstanding the pains he took to conceal it, plunged him in the abyss of woe.

He

He offered his services to the Elector; and this Prince, being informed of his birth, and the glory he had acquired against the Turks, gave him a considerable post in the army, with assurances of large emoluments.

As soon as Kunigsmark found himself established in the Elector's service, he sought, with the utmost eagerness, to make his court to the Princess, and endeavoured, by his respectful assiduities, to merit, her confidence

The friendship of Prince Charles (second son to the Elector) with which he was honoured, served to facilitate the means.

This

This young Prince, handsome, well made, and gallant, and who was only bent on amusing himself, went usually to pass his afternoons with the Princess, where were sure to be assembled the most lovely and witty of both sexes, till the time of the Electress's drawing-room.

The pleasure Prince Charles took in the conversation of Kunigsmark, made him always one of the party at the Princess's apartment.

The facility with which he saw her, excited in Kunigsmark emotions he had never before felt, and which did not leave him long in doubt of the
true

true sentiments he had for her—he made melancholy reflections on the danger to which he was exposing himself, and on the severe virtue of the Princess, which would not allow him any hope.

He would willingly have avoided her; but it was too late; and whatever efforts he might make towards this resolution, his heart could not consent to so great a sacrifice.

He plainly foresaw he must be unhappy;—but he chose rather to be so whilst near the Princess, than at a distance from her, and flattered himself he should always have so much the command

mand of his love, as to conceal it from the eyes of the whole Court, and even from the object of it.

The young Princess, who was ignorant of what passed in the breast of Kunigsmark, and who took his assiduities for marks of respect towards herself, or gratitude for the favours he had formerly received from the Duke of Zell, looked on him as one attached to her, and the confidence she had in him increased daily.

How brilliant soever the fate of the Princess might appear, she was far from being happy ; and although she had

brought her husband a son, this Prince had not the less indifference for her.

Henrietta of Meissenbourg (sister to the Countess de Plate) whose husband occupied the most considerable places in the service of the Elector, was entire mistress of his affections; and if he paid any attention to his wife, it was more from politeness, than any other motive.

But this was not all; the Elector behaved to her with the most mortifying coolness; and the Electress herself, generous as she was to every one else, made her often feel, by the most pointed contempt, the natural antipathy

pathy she had for the family of the Duchefs of Zell.

What rendered the troubles the Princess ftill more affecting, was the infufferable pride of the Countefs de Plate, miftrefs to the Elector.

This woman defcended from an illuftrious houfe, among the Caths, had married the Count, a man of mean birth, but rich, and who, by his quick and enterprifing temper, and, by his readinefs to enter into the pleasures of his mafter, had found the way to raife himfelf to the higheft pitch of fortune.

If

If the Countess at first had appeared to shun the pursuit of the Elector, it had been only to raise his passion the more, and to assure herself the better of her conquest, and the sequel soon proved she would have been sorry if this Prince had been discouraged by her false appearance of virtue.

There never was a person who knew better than this woman, how to make advantage of his favour; she gained, in a short time, such an ascendancy over him, that all favours passed thro' her hands; and even persons of the first rank were obliged to make their court to her.

Her will and her caprice decided the fortune of individuals ; and the only successful application to her favour was adulation and flattery ; few women were agreeable to her, and she received at her house none, except those with whom she was in the habits of intimacy and confidence, and whose disposition resembled her own, and those only on such days when she thought proper to have a court like that of the Electress.

The Count soon perceived the Elector's passion for his wife ; but as nothing gave him concern where his interest did not bear a part, he chose rather to sacrifice his honour, than by leaving

leaving Court to renounce those advantages he had reason to expect from the favours of the Countess; he left her therefore mistress of her actions; and to carry his compliance still further, he retired to a magnificent villa he had built out of the gates of Hanover, where he appeared wholly employed in the constant improvements and imbellishments of the place.

The Elector was charmed with his docility, and was not contented with giving him his entire confidence, and reposing all authority in him, but he also prevailed on the Emperor to grant him one of the first dignities of the Empire.

The Electress saw, with concern, the Elector's predilection for the Countess; but her policy made her dissemble her grief; and knowing mildness would bring back a husband sooner than reproaches, she pretended not to perceive it, and took the utmost caution not to force the Elector from her, by an ill-timed jealousy.

It was to be wished, for the happiness of the Princess, that she had observed the same mode of conduct as the Electress, in regard to the Countess; but this young lady, although less interested, knew not so well how to dissimulate.

She

She suffered, with the utmost impatience, the haughtiness of this favourite, who often failed in respect towards her : Besides, by a weakness, (which her extreme youth rendered excusable) she could not see, without jealousy, a person whose beauty was so much boasted, and who, disposing at will of the Elector's treasure, dared to equal, and even to surpass her in magnificence.

She also let slip no opportunity of mortifying her ; she spoke of her with the utmost contempt, without reflecting on the trouble this conduct might draw upon herself, and appeared still more angry with her than with Hen-

rietta de Meissebourg (sister to the Countess, and mistress to Prince George) who had certainly behaved with more respect towards her.

The Princess was naturally lively, and had a turn for raillery: Kunigsmark, who knew of this failing, and who sought only to insinuate himself in her favour, instead of representing its dangerous tendency, and advising her to be more cautious, was the first to applaud and join with her in this mischievous amusement.

The uninterrupted dissipation which then reigned at Hanover (where the Elector was desirous of pleasing his
mistress)

mistress) continually invented a new succession of entertainments, suspended, for a time, that mutual enmity between the favourite and the Princess: It did not break out till the return of the latter from a journey she had made to Zell with her father-in-law.

Whatever empire love might have had on the heart of the Prince, it did not make him forgetful of his interests.

Being informed of the attempts of Lewis the Fourteenth to attack the Duke of Zell, in his party against the Imperialists, with whom this Prince intended to declare war, the news made him apprehensive that the Du-

chefs of Zell (ever strongly attached to her country, and who had lately received rich presents from the King of France) might prevail on the Duke, her husband, to enter into some treaty with this enemy of Germany, which could not but be prejudicial to the Elector.

The Imperialists, having a right to require of him, as their ally, that he should oppose his brother's enterprizes, he determined not to neglect any thing to engage this Prince to espouse the cause of the Imperialists.

He went to Zell, and took the Princess with him, knowing he could not

not do any thing more agreeable to the Duke and Duchefs, than to let them fee again their beloved daughter.

He did not at firft declare the real caufe of his vifit ;—friendfhip for his brother ferved him as a pretence.—He careffed this Prince, and was particularly attentive to the Duchefs, while he endeavoured to difcover the real fentiments of the Duke, on the propofals of the King of France.

He foon difcovered that he was undetermined, and that his council were much divided, the Duchefs's party maintaining the interefts of France, and

and the true Germans being for that of the Imperialists.

But knowing the Duchess was at variance with Bernstaff, Prime Minister to the Duke of Zell, he was mindful to turn their misunderstanding to his own advantage, and by flattering each party, attach them to his interest.

At first, he shewed a particular esteem for the Duchess ; he told her, that if she had not before received all the respect she might expect from him, it had been to please the Electress, his consort ; but that Princess now acknowledged herself to be in the wrong,
and

and wished to repair her fault ; and that, in short, they meant to neglect nothing that might ensure her future friendship.

The Duchefs, flattered by the Elector's discourse, was more willing to think him sincere, as from the love she bore her daughter, there was nothing she more ardently desired, than to live in friendship with him and the Electress.

The Elector then sought Bernstaff, the Prime Minister and favourite, whom the Duke had permitted to assume an authority, which it was no longer in his power to resist. Some-
5 times,

times, indeed, he would acknowledge his weakness ; but he could not do without this man, as he flattered his passions, and knew too many of his secrets.

Besides, the Duke was accustomed to be governed ; he hated business ;—and his natural indolence, joined to an extreme passion for hunting, obliged him to resign the power into the hands of another, contenting himself with the vain honours of royalty, and this minister had never found himself opposed by any person but the Duchess.

This Princess could have wished that her consort had confided the care
of

of the government to her, because Bernstaff prevented the Duke from doing all she wished for the Frenchmen she had sent for to Court. She endeavoured to render him odious to his master; but this Prince, prejudiced in favour of the fidelity and talents of his ministers, continued to him his esteem, notwithstanding the efforts of the Duchess.

Nevertheless, at the earnest entreaties of this Princess, he was on the point of making an alliance with the King of France, against the advice of Bernstaff, if this minister, who foresaw, by this alliance, that the Duchess and the French would become masters of the
government

government, had not found means to delay signing the treaty, hoping time might furnish him with a pretext for breaking it entirely.

It is probable that it was Bernstaff who informed the Elector what was plotting in respect to this affair at Zell, and who solicited him to come to persuade the Duke, his brother, from so fatal a design.

However it was, this Prince knew it time enough ; and he gained such ascendancy over the minds of the Duke and Duchess, that the proposals of Lewis were rejected.

The

The Elector was not, however, contented with having gained this point; he wished to prevent all inconstancy for the future, and judged it the best method to introduce some persons of his party into the councils of the Duke.

This was not an easy undertaking, since the Duchess, and even the minister, had an interest in opposing it.

The Elector, having discovered that the Duchess was sensible to the marks of respect he had paid her, redoubled his attentions. He made her a thousand protestations, that, if she would second him on this occasion, he would
never

never give her reason to repent it, and that himself and son would ever preserve for her the utmost gratitude and respect ; and that, if she had the misfortune to survive her husband, she should never perceive a change.

The Duchess had too much penetration to be the dupe of these promises ; she knew too well she had no right to expect much from the consideration of a Prince, who, even in the life time of her husband, wanted to deprive her of the little interest she possessed ; she nevertheless pretended to be persuaded, and promised him, in her turn, all the assistance he might expect from her ; but instead of seconding

conding him, she offered her friendship to the minister, and proposed to join him, that they might, together, frustrate a design which apparently could only be prejudicial to the credit and authority of both.

But this minister was too proud to give himself up so easily : Besides, the Elector's protection, after the death of the Duke, and the preservation of his dignities and places (of which this Prince had given him the most flattering assurances, by Count Plate, his Prime Minister) appeared to him an advantage preferable to the friendship of the Duchefs, who only offered it to him from necessity.

Bernstaff acted with more sincerity towards the Elector than the Duchefs had done ; after having suffered himself to be seduced by the offers of this Prince, he persuaded his master that his interest, and the Elector's, being the same since the marriage of the Prince with the Princess Sophia, it was necessary that the two Courts should be so united, that they should ever coincide with each other ; that, by granting this mark of confidence to the Elector and his son, he would ensure the happiness of the Duchefs and his daughter, for whom these Princes would have more respect after his death, because they would have reason to look upon them as the widow
and

and daughter of a Prince who had shewn them the most tender friendship.

If, on the contrary, these Princes were refused, the resentment occasioned by this denial, might one day fall upon the Duchess and her daughter, as, in fact, their demand was not unjust or unreasonable, since, being presumptive heirs to the Duchy of Zell, they had some right to be introduced into the Councils.

The Duke, who was satisfied with any thing, provided it did not interrupt his indolence and pleasure, easily consented to the Elector's proposals ;

and the more so, as he thought he should do an essential service to his consort and the Princess, the uncertainty of whose fate, after his death, gave him some uneasiness.

The Duchess saw plainly, that the minister had given himself up to the Elector, and wanted to let her consort know it ; but this Prince, prejudiced by the hatred he knew she bore this favourite, assured her, that all Bernstaff seemed to do for the Elector, was in reality for her advantage, and that of her daughter.

The Duchess, well persuaded as she was of the contrary, seeing her endeavours

yours were useless, was constrained to dissemble, and appear convinced with what he said.—Thus the Elector had the satisfaction of succeeding in his designs; and having introduced a number of his creatures into the Duke's cabinet, he returned to Hanover, accompanied by the Princess, for whom, for some time, he had pretended great respect.

This lady did not find the same pleasure at Hanover as she had left at Zell, where the Duke and Duchess had given her a thousand proofs of the most lively tenderness.

Her husband saw her return with the same unconcern as he had beheld her departure ; more attached than ever to his former amours, he carried his indifference so far, as to be two months without speaking to her.

It is easy to imagine how harsh this treatment must appear to an amiable Princess, whose conduct had not brought it upon herself ; she thought it her duty to make an effort to regain the affections of her husband.

With this idea, she went into the Prince's study one day when he was alone ; he was going to retire as soon as he perceived her ; but she, detain-
ing

ing him, said, my lord, if I had any thing to reproach myself with in respect to you, far from seeking you, as I now do, to ask your reason for avoiding me, I should be pleased with a conduct that would spare me the trouble of a justification.

But conscious that I have never failed in my duty to you, nor done any thing to deserve the contempt with which you treat me, I dare present myself before you—not to reproach you—but to entreat that I may be informed in what I have incurred your displeasure.

“ I only ask your esteem, and flatter myself I am not unworthy of it :— Will you not condescend, my lord, to tell me what I must do to deserve it.”

“ Make yourself easy, Madam,” replied the Prince, sternly ; and without saying any thing more, left the room, leaving the Princess motionless with disappointment and despair.

She had scarce strength to return to her apartment, where she found Kunigsmark and Mademoiselle de Molk, one of her women, in whom she placed an unbounded confidence ; they both discovered, by the alteration in her countenance,

countenance, that her heart was agitated by some violent grief.

They entreated her not to conceal from them the cause of her uneasiness ; and this Princess thought she ought not to refuse, to their earnest zeal, a confidence which would also relieve her mind.

Kunigsmark and Mademoiselle de Molck were equally surpris'd at the Prince's cruelty ; they could not comprehend how he, who was so polite to every other female, and who extended his complaisance to the meanest of his servants, could treat so unworthily her, who

who had so great a claim to his respect and affection.

They thought, at first, it would be better not to oppose the just griefs of the Princess, as giving vent to her tears might ease her perturbation of mind ; but seeing her much affected, they feared melancholy would gain too great an ascendancy over her, and entreated she would not resign herself up to unavailing sorrow.

Kunigsmark (sensibly affected at the situation in which he saw her, and still more enraged against the Prince) said, “ do not, Madam, afflict yourself thus ; the Prince is unworthy of your tears ;
he

he merits only your contempt and indignation ; revenge yourself, therefore, by testifying both to him ;—the whole world will justify you ; and whoever is informed of the manner in which he has treated you, will look upon him as a barbarian and a tyrant.”

“ Stop, Kunigsmark,” said the Princess to him ;—“ though I thank you for your zeal towards me, I cannot suffer you to forget the respect you owe to the Prince ; remember it is to me you speak, and that he is my husband.—The Prince is virtuous ; and if he has not for me all the respect and affection that he ought

ought to have, I impute it to my destiny.

“ The Prince loves another ; perhaps Heaven, in pity to my sorrows, will cure him of a passion destructive to my peace, and that I shall one day have a share in his esteem ; however, it is my duty to merit it, which is what I shall never be able to accomplish, but by pursuing a method entirely opposite to that which you propose.

“ If it be true that you are as much attached to me as you profess, you cannot give me a stronger proof of it than by preserving an eternal silence
on

on what I have just confided to you ; it is what I expect from you, if you do not wish to be for ever banished from my presence.

“ What I say to Kunigsmark equally concerns Mademoiselle de Molck, continued she, addressing herself to that lady.

“ If my friendship is dear to you, keep a profound silence on what I have related to you.”

They both swore an inviolable secrecy ; but Kunigsmark, who felt himself agitated by various emotions,—hatred towards the Prince, and admiration

miration and love for the Princess, was so affected, and gazed on her so tenderly, that, had she been less oppressed by her misfortunes, she must certainly have remarked what passed in his heart.

He was leaning on a table, and so much occupied in contemplating the Princess, who did not appear to him less beautiful in her tears ; that he did not observe the entrance of Prince Charles, who was come to make a visit to her Highness.

“ I was going, my Lord,” said she,
“ to the Prince, to desire Kunigsmark

to make my excuses to you, and to tell you I was indisposed, in order to prevent your coming."

"I doubt, Madam, if I should have obeyed you," answered this young Prince, "I should not have been able to conquer my impatience, as the interest I take in your health would not have permitted me to have confided to any other person the honour of the inquiry."

This Prince went out a few moments after, and Kunigsmark with him, but still so thoughtful, that the Prince took notice of it.

"What

“What ails you, Kunigsmark?” said the Prince to him; “you do not seem to me in your usual good spirits; you are no longer the lively careless Kunigsmark; and has love, whom, till now, you have ever held in defiance, has he revenged himself at last?”

“Handsome as you are, you need not fear being rejected: Tell me, then, what makes you so thoughtful? and remember you promised me, if ever you should be wounded by the arrows of the little god, that I should be your confident.”

“I would take advantage of your kindness, my Lord,” replied Kunigsmark,

mark, if any thing more than an head-ach was the cause of the alteration you fancy.—Thank Heaven, I know but little of love, and I confess I esteem myself much obliged to him, that he has never, to this moment, troubled my repose.

“I do not know if you are sincere,” rejoined the Prince; “but I know the friendship I feel for you does not deserve to be deceived; and I forewarn you, if you mean to impose on me for any length of time, you must act with great circumspection, for I will make it my business to endeavour to discover what, I suspect, you conceal from me.”

Some courtiers coming up, gave Kunigsmark an opportunity of retiring.—He was so afflicted and embarrassed, at the condition in which he left the Princess, and the last words of Prince Charles, that he arrived at his own house, almost without perceiving it; he feigned indisposition, and retired to bed, giving orders not to be disturbed.

He resigned himself up to the various sentiments with which he was agitated; and although he partook the sorrow of the Princess, there were certain moments in which he was not sorry that the Prince did not behave well to her; and if he did not go so far

far as to conceive hopes for his love, at least he thought himself happy in not having a rival to fear.

He sometimes wished the Princess, being less attached to her duty, had carried her resentment against her husband to hatred; and her constancy, in persevering to gain his affection, seemed to him a virtue far too austere.

But what Prince Charles had said to him, and the suspicions he had betrayed, caused him great uneasiness; he examined, with attention, whether any thing might have escaped him, which could discover his internal passion, but, by the strictest scrutiny he

could make, he thought he had nothing to reproach himself with.

He resolved, however, to be more circumspect for the future, and to go as seldom as possible to the Princess's apartment, and then only in company with Prince Charles.

While Kunigsmark was thus cruelly agitated, the Princess, who went to bed as soon as Prince Charles had left her, was still in a more melancholy situation. The agitation of her mind caused a high fever; she passed a sleepless night; and the next day was so extremely ill, that her life was despaired of.—She received the information

tion of her danger with a fortitude worthy her virtue.

The Elector and Electress were alarmed at the state in which they saw her; and although they did not love the Princess, they could not help esteeming her; besides, knowing she was near lying in of her second child, they had an interest in her preservation.

The Electress scarce ever left her; and the Princess was the more sensible of this attention, as it was what she could not have expected from the general tenor of her conduct.

The Prince, being informed of her danger, could not possibly avoid paying her a visit, and took the opportunity of the Electress's absence.

Having approached the bed, he said, with his usual sang froid, that he was sorry to see her in that situation. The Princess held out her hand to him—"I am dying, my Lord," said she, "and you know the cause; I do not reproach you, but pray for your repose, and that you may never have cause to repent the treatment I have received from you.—Your contempt has not been able to deprive you of my esteem, because I am persuaded you would have granted me your's, if
you

you had not been led away by a passion which has got the better of your reason.

“ But this passion, my Lord, will be of short duration, and you will one day do me more justice ; and perhaps you will not refuse me after my death, what it was not in your power to grant while I lived.”

Here the Princess, overcome by various emotions, fainted away, which put an end to the conversation, and relieved the Prince from his embarrassment, as he would have found a difficulty in answering her.

This fainting proved the crisis of her disorder, which, by a good constitution, she got the better of. From that day her strength gradually increased, and, on the twentieth day, she was brought to bed of a Princess (who was afterwards Queen of Prussia.) The Princess suffered more from this lying-in than the former, owing to her ill state of health ; and notwithstanding the united efforts of the Electress, Prince Charles, and even Kunigsmark, to divert her, this Princess was absorbed in melancholy, and was confined to her room three months, without finding any material amendment in health or spirits.

The

The physicians judged that the country might be of service to her.— The Electress therefore determined to take her to one of the royal palaces, about an hour's ride from Hanover, hoping the salubrity of the air, and the beauty of the place, might contribute to her recovery.

Few persons were appointed to accompany the Electress, as she thought, by taking a small party to oblige the Princess, for whom solitude seemed to have more charms than the parade of a court.

Prince Charles, who did not like to be at a distance from the Princess, requested

requested the Electress to give him leave to follow her, accompanied by Kunigsmark. The Electress, who loved this son better than any of her children, granted his desire with pleasure.

The remembrance of the Prince's suspicions, and the fear that Kunigsmark was in, lest, by his looks, he might betray himself, in a place where Charles (less amused than at Hanover) might observe him more attentively, made him, for a few moments, hesitate whether he should not form some pretext to remain with the Elector.—After a feeble struggle, his passion got the better of his reason, and

and he determined to accept the Prince's invitation.

It was in the height of summer, the Electress and the Princess set out for the Royal palace, which might be esteemed one of the most beautiful belonging to the Elector.

The furniture was truly magnificent, and displayed an infinity of taste.

Paintings, by the most eminent masters, adorned this charming place ; the gardens exhibited the most beautiful combination of nature and art, while fountains, not to be rivalled in the world,

world, conspired to render it the most delightful situation imagination could suggest.

The Princess received much pleasure from being in such an enchanting spot, far from the noise and tumult of a great court.

The Electress omitted nothing which might amuse her small party, and render this retreat agreeable.— She procured them the pleasures of walking, fishing, and cheerful conversation, and tried, by every delicate attention, to dissipate the sorrows of the Princess.

Refreshments

Refreshments were found set out in the woods, and agreeably surprised the company, by being unexpected.—At other times, the sound of various musical instruments broke on the ear of her guests, and formed a melodious concert.

Magnificent gondolas, rowed by Gondoliers, lightly habited, were seen on the great canal (which terminated the garden) for the use of those who chose to amuse themselves on the water.

Carriages were ready every evening for those who wished to ride in the park, and they afterwards assembled in an elegant saloon, which formed part
of

of the orangery.—Here they found a table decorated with every luxury, and the Electress permitted her suite of both sexes to sup with her.

After the repast, they amused themselves at play, and walking in a gallery which led into a room adorned with the most choice and delicate paintings.

The Princess, who had a particular taste for that art, and in which she excelled, was amusing herself one day in looking at them, and had her eyes fixed on a picture (which had been recently put up) representing Venus and Love.

The Electress came in at this moment, and finding her so occupied, "Princess," said she, "you do not know, perhaps, that the picture you are considering with so much attention is in fact a portrait."

"I took it for an imagination of the painter," replied the Princess, not being able to believe there had ever been a person in existence handsome enough to resemble that picture.

"You are mistaken," said the Electress; "and however beautiful this face may appear to you, I can assure you, that the celebrated, but too
lovely

lovely Charlotte, Baroness of Degenfeldt, whom it represents, infinitely surpassed it."

"What, Madam!" answered the Princess, with an air of surprise, "is that the lady who, I have been told, caused so much confusion in your family; I have always wished to find some person who could give me the recital of her life, but notwithstanding all the trouble I have taken, I have not been able to find any who were truly acquainted with the subject."

"There is no one that can inform you better than myself," replied the Electress;

Electress ; but as the relation is a long one, and I could not recollect the events without the greatest emotion, I shall content myself by telling you, that after the death of the great Frederic, my father, we were left five children, a Prince and four Princesses. Charles Lewis, my brother, being smitten with the incomparable beauty of the Baroness de Degenfeldt, whose picture you have just seen, married her privately, in the life time of his first wife, from whom he was divorced.—Altho' he had several children by her, this separation was so fatal to our house, that it occasioned the total extinction of it ; and I have had the misfortune to see our dominions in the possession

of a foreign power ; but spare me the pain of repeating to you this melancholy history."

As she finished these words, a gentleman came to inform her, that the Elector, the Princes, and the Lords of the Court, were already prepared to appear at the ball, which Prince George was to give that evening.

"Come, Princess," said the Electress, "it is time for us to get ready also ; and as there was a long interval between this conversation and the ball, the Electress held a drawing-room, at which the Duchesse of Zell and the Princess were present.

The

The ladies had been particularly attentive to their dress ; and the Countesses, above all, had neglected nothing, that she might surpass all those who piqued themselves on elegance of taste. She was one of the first in the circle, and made herself the more conspicuous, as the Elector and Duke were expected.

The company consisted of the first nobility ; and amongst the many accomplished gentlemen, the ladies particularly distinguished Count Kunigsmark, and bestowed on him all the praises he so justly merited, but especially the Countesses, who spoke of him in such flattering terms, and com-

mended him with so much warmth, that she gave room to suppose he was not indifferent to her.—She was still speaking of him when he made his appearance.

He had that evening paid particular attention to his dress, which heightened the natural charms of his person, and the Countess, ever prepossessed in his favour, thought him that evening particularly captivating.

The Electress, who had remarked the earnestness with which the Countess praised Kunigsmark, and observing the emotion his presence created in her, took a malicious pleasure in
increasing

increasing her embarrassment—and turning towards Kunigsmark, when he approached to pay her his respects, said, “you are come in good time;—we were talking of you; the Duchefs and I were taking your part against the Countefs.—She contended, that if you had all the honour of the last hunt, your good fortune, more than your skill or courage, contributed to it.”

The Elector and Duke coming in, and the Electrefs rising, spared Kunigsmark the task of answering to a discourse which confused him as much as it troubled the Countefs.

A few moments after the Elector and Duke were come in, they went with their consorts and the Princess to Prince George's apartment ; they began to play ; and chance placed the Countess between the Elector and Kunigsmark.—Never was the Elector's presence more disagreeable to this favourite ; she dared scarce lift her eyes towards Kunigsmark, lest the Elector should discover her passion, and yet she could not help looking on an object so fascinating.

The Electress, who constantly observed her, was confirmed in her suspicions of her affection for Kunigsmark ; and not doubting but the
Elector,

Electör, who had a great share of penetration, would perceive the infidelity of his mistress, flattered herself she should soon see an end to the reign of this favourite.

The Electör did really perceive an alteration in the countenance of the Countess, and inquired the cause of it ; and this artful woman had the address to attribute it to a slight indisposition. He entreated her to retire ; but she told him the disorder was too trifling, to deprive her of the pleasure of his company.

The game being finished, the Electör, followed by the Electress, the

Princess, the Duchess, and the rest of the company, passed into a large room, where were several tables ; that of the Elector was placed higher than the rest, and disposed in such a manner, that the Elector and Electress might be able to view the whole company at once.

After supper, the Duke of Zell opened the ball with the Princess, his daughter, the Electress not chusing to dance.

Prince George afterwards took the Countess ; and when they had finished, she was looking round for a partner, when the Elector made a sign for her to
take

take Kunigsmark, who had not yet danced.

This order was very agreeable to her; and as it was of consequence to her to vindicate herself to Kunigsmark, from the aspersions of the Electress, she made use of this opportunity.

After having courtseyed to him, as he gave her his hand to lead her to the dance, she said, “ I do not know, my Lord, what interest the Electress may have in making us enemies; I can assure you I have given every commendation to your courage and skill which they both deserve, and that no one is more your friend than myself;

self; it only remains with you to make the trial; and if you will follow me after the ball to my house, and tell me in what I can serve you, you shall see what dependence you ought to place on what the Electress has asserted.

Kunigsmark perfectly understood this invitation; his passion for the Princess did not render him insensible to the advances of so handsome a woman as the Countess.

“It is not necessary for you, Madam, to justify yourself,” answered he; “I am ashamed of the kindness you shew for a man so little deserving of it; and since you give me leave, as
soon

soon as the Elector is retired, I will be at your house, to assure you more particularly of my most humble gratitude."

Here the Electress interrupted them, to continue the ball.

Kunigsmark then led out the Princesses; and when they began to dance, a murmur of applause went through the room, and the whole company thought they could not sufficiently admire them.

The attention the Elector paid his mistress, caused him to retire at an
early

early hour, as he thought her indisposed.

Kunigsmark followed the Elector to his apartment ; and after he had taken his leave, he went to the house of the Countess.

He found her lying on a couch in an elegant but not very modest undress.—She rose as soon as she saw him, and embraced him with a transport that surprised him ; she observed his embarrassment, but did not wonder at it ; and having laid aside all reserve, and being no longer mistress of herself, she confessed to him all her weaknesses, and displayed to him so many charms,

charms, that Kunigsmark was seduced, and naturally amorous, did not scruple to reply to her advances.

The day began to appear when he returned home ; he threw himself upon his bed, to take repose, but it was in vain ; a thousand afflicting thoughts troubled him, and he reproached himself with the most criminal infidelity, at having been sensible to the charms of this declared enemy to the Princess.

He doubted much if this adventure could be long concealed ; and in the apprehension that the Princess, being informed of it, might suspect he was not faithful to her interest, he resolved

to acquaint her with the affair himself.

He went, then, to her Highness's apartment, as soon as he knew she was risen. He found her at her toilette, surrounded by a number of her father's nobles, who were going to return with him, and were come to receive her orders.

The Princess, having risen from her toilette, dismissed the Lords, and there remained with her only a small number of persons, among whom was Kunigsmark.—The Princess called him to a window, to which she had retired, and expressed to him the regret

gret she felt at the departure of her father and mother, and told him, she could have wished to have accompanied them to Zell, but it was in vain to ask permission of the Elector, as his minister had represented to him that her journey would be too expensive; and the insatiable avarice of this man caused him to be sparing of the Elector's treasures, because he wished to reserve them all for himself and his wife;—"but what am I thinking on," added she, smiling, "to be talking to you with so much freedom, since yesterday you were on such good terms with the Count, or rather with the Countess—I must hereafter speak
to

to you (of them) with more circumspection.

“Your attention to her at the ball, and the warmth with which she spoke of you in the Electress’s apartment—her embarrassment at play—all told me you were good friends.”

“It is what I did not mean to conceal from you, Madam,” answered Kunigsmark; “I had rather you should think me indiscreet, than that I fail in my fidelity to you.

“It is true, Madam, the Countess confessed to me yesterday, that she had a regard for me, and even engaged
me

me to go to her house.—I have been there ; but I swear to you, by all the respect I owe you, that, if I thought the seeing or speaking to her would deprive me of the honour of your confidence, I would never see her more.”

“ No, Kunigsmark,” replied the Princess ; “ see her I desire you ;—that shall not prevent my being always your friend, as I am persuaded that you must ever have more esteem for me than for that woman, for whom, in reality, you can entertain only contempt.—I am even pleased that you have her good will, since, perhaps, you may induce her not to

injure me in the Elector's opinion, as she continually endeavours to do."

Kunigsmark was hurt to find the Princess advised him so coolly to see the Countess, and with much difficulty restrained himself; and it is probable, that, finding himself at liberty to talk with her, and the interest that his latent passion made him take in dissuading her from thinking he was in love with the Countess, might have inspired him with a boldness that he had never hitherto dared to shew, if a person had not come in to tell the Princess that the Duchess of Zell was just arrived.

The

The Princess went into her dressing-room to finish her toilette, and Kunigsmark retired home, where he made the most melancholy reflections upon this unfortunate attachment, which led him to adore a Princess, from whom he dared not flatter himself he should receive the smallest return, and to whom he durst not presume to mention how much he was under the influence of her charms.

He resolved to make an effort to conquer his unhappy passion, and determined to keep a strict watch over his looks and actions, that they might not betray feelings, which would

wound her delicacy, and for ever injure him in her opinion.

He was lost in these ideas, when Prince Charles desired to speak with him in the Electress's apartment.

Kunigsmark went immediately to the palace ; he had scarcely appeared, when the Prince said to him, " I have a proposal to make, Kunigsmark, which I think will be agreeable to you ; the Elector has given me leave to open a campaign against the Turks, who have attacked the Imperialists, whom we are obliged to assist ; should you like to accompany me ? In that case, I will ask the Elector's permission."

" You

“ You could not, my Lord,” replied Kunigsmark, “ have proposed any thing more agreeable to me ; I am ready to follow whenever you shall command.”

The Prince expressed himself much pleased with this proof of his attachment, and immediately went to ask the Elector to permit Kunigsmark to be of his party, to which that Prince readily acceded.

The Prince gave instant orders for the preparation of his equipages ; and so diligent were they in fulfilling his commands, that every thing was ready in a few days :—The Prince sent them

on before, and only kept a small number of officers about his person.

The day of departure, however, drew near, and Kunigsmark saw its approach with extreme affliction.—He thought of being so long deprived of the sight of the Princess, appeared to him an unparalleled misfortune; but his word given to Prince Charles he could not recede.

His dejection was remarked by the whole Court, but no one suspected the real cause, though each thought they had discovered it.—The Electress rallied him upon it; and the Princess, when he took leave of her, told him

she felt herself obliged by the regret he discovered at leaving Hanover.

“ I think I have some share in it,” continued she, “ and I believe you sufficiently attached to me, not to quit me without reluctance.

“ If it is so, I can assure you I am not ungrateful, and your departure gives me uneasiness ; you leave me at a time when I have occasion for your advice, and I remain alone amongst my enemies.

“ Take care of yourself, and return as soon as you possibly can ; for I foresee that the ill treatment I receive will

at length force me to means, which I neither can, nor will undertake, without your opinion."

It would be impossible to express what Kunigsmark felt at this flattering discourse of the Princess; if he had been alone with her, in spite of his resolutions, he would certainly have made a declaration of his love; but being in the presence of the whole Court, such an eclaircissement would have been too rash.—He contented himself by saying, "The interest you take in my preservation, Madam, renders it of consequence to me, and I shall be careful of a life, which you have condescended to inform me, may,
one

one day, be useful to you ; and my utmost ambition will be gratified, if I have the honour of testifying my attachment, even at the hazard of that life which has been rendered valuable, since you deigned to make it an object worthy your attention. I entreat you, Madam, to depend on my zeal, and be persuaded, that whatever orders you may please to honour me with, I shall ever execute them with implicit obedience."

The Princess thanked him ; and after having wished him a successful campaign, she left him, and sat down to play ; and Kunigsmark went out as much.

much overcome with grief, as if he had lost every hope of seeing her again.

Occupied with these reflections, he was returning home, without thinking of taking leave of the Countess.—

When he met her in one of the galleries of the palace, he could have wished to have avoided her; but the rank that she held, and the terms on which they were, did not permit him to pass without paying her his respects.

“How happy should I be, my Lord,” said she, “if I could flatter myself that I had any share in the regret you shew at leaving Court, I own to you it would be the only thing
that

that could reconcile me to your absence."

"You know me too much, Madam," said Kunigsmark, with some confusion; "and I hope will believe me sincere, when I assure you, the pain I experience at leaving you, joined to my lively apprehensions, that absence may cause you to forget me, is the source of my present dejection."

"No, Kunigsmark," replied the Countess; "do not suppose me capable of forgetting you—you have made too strong an impression on my heart, and nothing but death shall make me cease to love you."

This

This conversation lasted some time, and the most tender expressions passed between them; and as Kuhigsmark had accompanied her to her apartment, he was detained longer than he intended.—At length the Elector, coming in to see the Countess, he respectfully retired.

Being returned home, he passed a sleepless night, and set out the next morning with Prince Charles; for the army, and the whole party, went away the same day to one of the royal palaces.

The Elector received notice, a few days after his arrival, that the states of
England,

England, at the sollicitations of their monarch, had passed an act, by which they appointed the Electress and her heirs to the succession of that crown, in case their present King, and the Princess Ann, should die without issue.

This great news caused festivals and rejoicings, at which the Princess was present; but she appeared so little affected with the joy that animated the whole Court, that the Electress reproached her for it.

“Is it possible, Princess,” said she,
 “that you can look with such indifference upon a hope which is not so
 very

very distant, but that you may see it accomplished.—The King of England is a Prince whose delicate constitution gives reason to believe he will not live long; he is a widower, and his disposition but little inclined to women, persuades me he will not marry again.

“The Princess Ann, his sister-in-law, and his heir, is married, it is true, but she is no longer young; and if I may believe the account of one of my physicians,* who has seen her, she has neither health nor constitution to make

us

* Some time after the celebrated act of Parliament was published, which called the House of Hanover to the succession, the Princess Sophia, who is speaking, was so very desirous of being Queen of

us apprehend she will have children ; and I confess to you I have so little idea that her posterity can deprive us of the throne, that although I am much older than that Princess, I nevertheless flatter myself I shall outlive her, and one day wear the crown of England."

"It is true, Madam," replied the Princess, "that if I am sensible to what has passed in England, it is only from

England, and was so apprehensive that the Princess Ann might still have heirs, that she sent the physician, Steindal, privately to England, to find out the constitution of this Princess, who gave it as his opinion, that she was not likely to have any more children.

from the pleasure I see it gives you ;—
for with respect to myself, I mistrust
my destiny so much, that I believe I
am ever to be unhappy ; and what
good soever fortune may seem to have
in store for me, I cannot believe that I
shall enjoy it.—Besides, the possession
of the crown of England appears to
me so distant, and the enjoyment so
dangerous, from the small attachment
of the English towards their King,
that I know not if it is desirable to
reign over them.”

“ Your presentiments are so ill
founded, Princess,” answered the
Electress, “ that I hope you will not
long preserve them ; I wish to see you
get

get the better of these prejudices you entertain against the English, in accusing them of a want of fidelity towards their Sovereign.

The examples which so much terrify you are not of consequence; notwithstanding all the revolutions we have seen among them, it must be owned more of their Kings have been known to die a natural death than in many kingdoms, where the people have appeared to adore their Monarch; and I only know, in their history of three or four, who have met with a tragical end, two of whom suffered, one from the wickedness of his wife, and the last from a set of rebels, who assumed an

unjust authority—and we may even say, that he might have avoided his misfortunes, had he been more complying to the wishes of his people, and had not yielded to the counsels of his Queen, who, being a native of a despotic kingdom, thought she might exert the same species of authority over the English...

James, her son, whom you now see driven from his throne, equally ambitious and bigotted, animated by a false zeal for his religion, endeavoured to introduce it into the nation, and to render his power arbitrary.—The people opposed it, and James was banished.

“ You

“ You will perhaps think it strange that I should condemn Princes, who are so nearly related to me—the first being brother to the Queen, my mother ; but I confess the ties of consanguinity should never oblige me to act unjustly ; and I assure you, if even I should be in power, I would by no means think amiss of my subjects, should they lay before me their laws and privileges ; and as my whole ambition would be to merit a place in history, I should wish it to be said of me, that I made my subjects perform their duty towards me but that, in my turn, I strictly fulfilled mine to them ;—and I am of opinion, that if the Kings of England, whom I have just named, had thought like

me, they would each have avoided their respective misfortunes."

"As I am but little acquainted, Madam," replied the Princess, "with the events that caused the misfortunes of the last-mentioned of these Princes, and as I behold him, driven by his subjects out of his kingdom, and his throne occupied by his son-in-law, I cannot forbear pitying him."

"If I was not apprehensive," answered the Electress, "that you would accuse me of being fond (like most persons of my age) of relating the history of former times, I could tell you things which would perhaps justify

the English, and shew you, that if James is unfortunate, it is through his own fault."

"I am, Madam," replied the Princess, "far from thinking as you apprehend; and but for the fear I have of being troublesome, I should request you would inform me of the late revolutions in England, and the misfortunes of the House of Stuart."

"I will most willingly," answered the Electress.

HISTORY
OF THE REVOLUTIONS OF THE HOUSE OF
STUART, DURING THEIR REIGN IN
ENGLAND.

THE House of Stuart, of which James II. is now chief, reigned many years over the Scots, and it was James the First, grandfather to James the Second, and mine on the side of my late mother, who was the first of that family who reigned in England, to which kingdom they succeeded, on the death of Queen Elizabeth, which was a kind of reparation to him, that

Princess

Princess having put his mother to death, who, flying from the fury of the Scots, who had revolted against her, and wishing to retire into France, had been cast, by a tempest, on the English coast.

Mary was, at first, received as a Queen; but a few days after, Elizabeth caused her to be arrested, and treated as a prisoner. She passed several years in her confinement; but at last, having attempted her escape, and for that purpose gained over several English noblemen, the haughty Elizabeth imputed it to her as a crime, and accused her with having conspired against her, and making her-

self both judge and accuser, without reflecting she was violating the laws of hospitality, and that it was the blood of a Queen she was going to spill, she caused this unfortunate Princess to be put to death upon the scaffold.

James, the son of Mary, either from weakness or policy, never thought proper to avenge her; and Elizabeth, having no nearer relation, was obliged to appoint him her successor, and, by that means, the kingdoms of England and Scotland (which, till that time, were perpetually at variance) became united under the same Monarch.

James

James the First loved peace, and gloried in it.—He took pleasure in being called the pacific King; his views, his qualities, his maxims, all turned to that point.

Content with what he possessed, he frequently said he did not wish to extend the bounds of his empire; (sentiments worthy a King, when not inspired by indolence, but resulting from the love of his subjects.)

I am ignorant of the motives which actuated James; but whatever they might be, the English, naturally warlike, saw, with concern, their King buried in his closet, employed in writing

ing books, while the Imperialists and their allies invaded the dominions of my father, his son-in-law, in which this Prince would not have troubled himself, to render him any assistance, but for repeated solicitations, which were not much attended to ; and recollecting Queen Elizabeth, who might truly have been ranked with the greatest Kings (if she had not embrued her hands in the blood of an innocent Princess). It was said Elizabeth had been a great King, and James a good Queen, nature having been mistaken in both.

The different religious sentiments which divided the English, when
James

James ascended the throne, caused him some trouble ; but as he declared immediately for the established religion of the country, he, by that means, acquired the good will of his people.

He afterwards testified much zeal for this faith, and wrote a book in defence of it. However, notwithstanding this ardour, he fought, with as much earnestness, to marry his only son to a Princess of a religion quite different to his own, as if there had not been one in the world of his own belief ; and, in order to succeed in this scheme, he adopted a measure, which greatly displeased the nation, and
which,

which, in reality, did not reflect much honour on himself:—It was to send his son into Spain, to treat upon his own marriage with that King's daughter; but the young Prince, failed in his enterprize by the proposal he made to the Spaniards, for engaging them to procure the restitution of the dominions of the Elector Palatine, my father, which their allies had then invaded, and he returned to England, with the shame of having been refused, and was received by the nation with the utmost indifference.

This did not prevent James from carrying his views into France, and he soon brought about the marriage of
his

his son with that King's sister, but he never had the satisfaction of seeing his daughter-in-law, death having put an end to his days before the young Princess came over.

He left behind him the reputation of a learned Prince, and he died at a time, when, against his nature and inclination, he was going to declare war against the Spaniards and their allies, for the recovery of my father's dominions (who was his son-in-law) Charles, his only son, succeeded him ; and this Prince ascended the throne at a very delicate juncture.

His

His marriage, which was concluded against the opinion of his council, occasioned great coolness with them ;—the clergy, of the different sects in the kingdom, were greatly divided among themselves ; he was engaged in a war, by which his coffers were exhausted, and he was upon too bad terms with his parliament, to venture a demand of subsidies ; and, to complete his misfortunes, Charles was but little adapted to adjust these difficulties.

He was a Prince who gave himself up to the government of others, and in whose conduct there was not any steadiness ; sometimes haughty, at
others

others affable, without any regard to propriety—brave, but unfortunate.

The arrogance of his favourite, and the deference he paid to this minister, immediately lost him the good will of his people;—Charles sent him into France, to marry that King's sister, in his name, and to bring her to England.

This man was equally admired at the French Court, for his fine person, his magnificence, and effrontery, which he carried so far as to make a declaration of love to the Queen, which he did with a freedom that makes me wonder

wonder that Princess could ever forgive him.

The conclusion of this marriage displeased the English, especially when they saw, that, contrary to their hopes, the French refused their alliance with Charles against the Spaniards.

The young Queen was received in the capital in a manner, which made her perceive the small degree of affection the English had for her; but pride did not permit her to attempt to gain their regard; satisfied with the ascendancy she had over her husband, she

she did not concern herself with the good or ill opinion of the public.

Happy, however, would it have been for this Prince, if he had shewed less complaisance for her, since the respect he paid all his life to her advice caused the ruin of both.

The Queen, notwithstanding the power she had over her consort, had the mortification to see him undertake a war against the French King.—A short time after her marriage, Charles, participating in the resentment of his favourite, who was displeased with that Monarch for refusing proposals he made (when he

was in treaty for the marriage of his master) of entering into a league with this Prince against Spain, to revenge himself, he engaged Charles to make war against him, under pretence of assisting those of his religion, who were oppressed in France.

This favourite had the address to get himself appointed to the command of the fleet ; in which situation his behaviour was productive of little credit to himself, or service to his master.—Having been beaten, he returned to England, with nothing but wrecks and disgrace.

The nation murmured greatly against him ; but that did not prevent
Charles

Charles from continuing his favours to him, and he was resolved that he should retain the command of the fleet during the ensuing year, but he was assassinated by a man, who thought, by this action, to render his country an essential service.

The death of this minister, who was loaded with the public hatred, brought back, in some measure, the minds of the people towards their King.—The parliament proposed an accommodation, which this Prince would probably have accepted, if the Queen, whose haughty spirit (which the birth of a Princess served to support) had not prevailed on Charles (who always

gave up to her advice) to refuse all the demands of his subjects.

The nation imputed this refusal to the Queen; and they were so irritated against her, that, had it not been for the respect the Parliament still bore to their Sovereign, and the King of France, this Princess would have been the subject of some extraordinary and fatal scene.

The King, seeing the interior troubles of his kingdom increase daily, thought it requisite to make peace with his neighbours, which he did on conditions so disadvantageous, as to cause great discontent to the English, who,

who, till that time, had been accustomed to make peace on the most glorious terms.

All this served to aggravate the people.—However, the nation in general, who did not as yet hate their King, dissembled for some time, hoping they might, at length, prevail on him to redress their grievances; but when they saw their Prince was inflexible, and that he only thought of reducing their privileges, and that the Queen was endeavouring to introduce her religion, and inspire her children with similar sentiments, the nation considered their safety, and the King,

on his part, raised an army, and a civil war commenced.

Fortune balanced, for a long time, between the two parties ; and they were not yet so irritated but they were willing to treat for an accommodation. There was even a probability that peace might have been made, if Charles had not had the misfortune never to understand the proper time to give way.

But ever opposite and contradictory, he provoked the nation so much, by his refusals, that they resolved to drive him to extremity.—The two armies approached ;

approached ; a battle ensued, and the King was totally defeated.

He, with difficulty, reached one of his palaces, where he was soon besieged ; and though well enabled to defend himself, having no assistance to hope for from without, he thought it not proper to wait the event of a siege, as his ruin was inevitable, if he should be taken prisoner ; he therefore retired secretly by night, attended by two domestics, and thus went to seek an asylum among the Scots (who had, in reality, taken up arms, in concert with the Parliament) but whom this Prince imagined, notwithstanding, to be less exasperated against him.

Besides, he had been informed the jealousy, and natural antipathy which reigned between the two nations, was beginning to revive; and flattered himself he should be able to ferment it still more, and that, in the end, the Scots, being the ancient subjects of his forefathers, would be easier brought back to their duty than the English.

The respect with which he was received, increased the jealousy of his English subjects, and his hopes of soon re-establishing himself, which would not have been impracticable, if the Scots had been less desirous of keeping measures with the English, and not entered into negotiations, which,
drawing

drawing to a considerable length, gave time to the army of the English Parliament to take possession of all the places which had held out for the King.

During that time, there arose a conspiracy against the unfortunate Charles, at the head of which appeared one of the Generals of the Parliament, a man of a bold and enterprising spirit, and whose ambitious desires could not be gratified but by the destruction of his King.

He used all his address to persuade the Parliament and the army, that it was their interest to draw their Prince
out

out of the hands of the Scots ; he was but too well attended to ; and altho' the Scots refused, for some time, the proposals of the English, they were, at last, subdued by large bribes ; they gave up their King, and imagined themselves exonerated from the share of any guilt attendant on such an action, by making a treaty with the heads of the English faction, by which it was specified that no injury should be done to the person of the King, or the royal dignity ; and that they would labour incessantly to restore peace between him and his subjects.

It was on these conditions Charles was confined in a castle.—He was apparently

parently guarded, and remained there a long time neglected, but at last was conducted to the army, where the chief of the faction received him with a respect which imposed on persons of the greatest penetration; and this artful wretch had the assurance to promise him that this change of abode would also produce a change in his fortune.

The Parliament did not approve of the King's abode being changed.— They complained of it; but as they had scarce any authority left (the chief of the army having ingrossed it all) they were not attended to.

This

This General, whose ambition destroyed every finer feeling, thought only of supplanting his master.— For this purpose, he caused libels to be privately circulated, to depreciate this Prince in the opinion of his subjects, and described him as an odious tyrant, whilst, in public, he pretended that he wished nothing so much as to accommodate matters.— In fact, he caused proposals to be made to him, but which seemed so hard to Charles, that he declared he had rather lose his crown, than wear it on such conditions.

This unfortunate Prince, seeing himself thus cruelly persecuted, wrote to the Princes, his allies, and to the Queen,

Queen (his wife) who had retired into France with her eldest son, to ask assistance, his letters were intercepted, and afterwards made use of as the principal accusations against him.

Unfortunately for Charles, those who were most willing to assist him were least in a condition to do it.—The French were torn with a civil war; Holland was fighting for liberty; and the Elector, my brother, was too distant, and moreover deprived of his own dominions.

Not being able to assist him with an army, he was, nevertheless, disposed to serve him, and visited England,

land, where he exerted his endeavours to gain over the chief of the faction; but all his efforts were useless; ambition and treason had taken possession of this man, and my brother could only shew his good-will.

Charles, having been for some time taken about from place to place, was at last brought to one of his palaces near the capital, where he was guarded with so little care, that he easily escaped his keepers; but this was only to be made more wretched, having found every port in the kingdom shut.

He at length found means to escape into the Isle of Wight, where Hammond,

mond, the governor, arrested him, and gave notice to the Parliament, who sent all his officers to wait on him, and deputies to treat with him on an accommodation, but on such hard conditions, that they did not believe Charles would accept them ; but they were mistaken :—This Prince yielded (but too late) to his ill fortune, and to save his head, consented to whatever they proposed—but it was not till after having lost a great deal of time, during which, the faction, got rid entirely of his few faithful adherents, who had assembled in different bodies, to rescue him from his oppressors.

Cromwell,

Cromwell, the chief of the rebels, seeing an agreement now likely to take place between the King and the Parliament, threw off the mask entirely, and caused a memorial to be presented to the Parliament, in the name of the army, and of the nation, by which, after great complaints against Charles, it was required that Prince should be punished, as guilty of all the bloodshed during the war.

END OF VOL. I.

